

<b>Work Task E15:</b>	<b>Mittry Lake Fire Rehabilitation Project</b>
<b>Partners:</b>	Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
<b>Point of Contact:</b>	Barbara Raulston, LC-2453 (702) 293-8788
<b>Purpose:</b>	To irrigate restoration areas affected by wildfires near Mittry Lake
<b>Conservation Measures:</b>	Develop techniques in support of all covered species habitat creation requirements.
<b>Long-term Goal:</b>	Habitat creation and restoration research after a fire.
<b>Location:</b>	Adjacent to Mittry Lake.
<b>FY05 Estimate:</b>	\$50,000 for in-house labor and contractual services.
<b>Project Description:</b>	In early 2004, BLM requested assistance from Reclamation in restoring habitat destroyed by fire in March 2003. BLM obtained partial funding through the Wildland Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Program (BAER), but the use of this funding is limited. BLM determined that irrigation was not an allowed use of BAER funds; therefore, Reclamation funded temporary sprinkler-type irrigation installation at the site.
<b>Accomplishments /Results:</b>	Areas burned previously have been re-vegetated by BLM but show extremely low habitat quality and high mortality of planted trees. Most of the area planted with native plants has been invaded by non-native saltcedar, which was the dominant species present prior to the fire. To avoid this scenario in the future, Reclamation intends to: (1) set up quarterly meetings with BLM to improve communication and coordination; (2) determine a method to fund restoration efforts quickly after fires occur versus reliance on later funding to allow immediate action. Example: fire fighting equipment remains on site until site preparation is completed; (3) stress to partners the importance of using proven techniques that are successful in other restoration projects such as root plowing non-native saltcedar to minimum 18", leveling the site to allow for even irrigation, installation of irrigation infrastructure for flood-type irrigation; and (5) work with other agencies on the LCR to develop a matrix "if-then" type action plan to follow immediately following fire that addresses funding, equipment needs, soils, and irrigation needs.